

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTOWARR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

SECDEF

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SUBJ: DEFENSE MINISTER REVIEWS NORWEGIAN SECURITY POLICY

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1. DEFENSE MINISTER FOSTERVOLL, IN ONE OF HIS INFREQUENT PUBLIC POLICY STATEMENTS, REVIEWED THE DIVERSE FACETS OF NORWAY'S CURRENT MILITARY/STRATEGIC SITUATION, DEFINED THE PRINCIPLE TASKS CONFRONTING THE ARMED FORCES AND REAFFIRMED THE MAIN LINES OF NORWEGIAN SECURITY POLICY (SEE REFTEL). HIS REMARKS BEFORE THE OSLO MILITARY SOCIETY, DELIVERED ON JANUARY 13 AND WIDELY REPORTED BY THE NORWEGIAN PRESS THE FOLLOWING DAY, ARE OF INTEREST AS A REFLECTION OF CURRENT THINKING IN THE DEFENSE MINISTRY AND AS AN IDENTIFICATION OF THE SIGNIFICANT AREAS THAT WILL RECEIVE CLOSE ATTENTION FROM POLICY MAKERS IN THE COMING YEAR.

2. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF FOSTERVOLL'S ADDRESS:

INTERNATIONAL SCENE

INCREASED CONTACT AND WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE ACROSS TRADITIONAL DIVIDING LINES IN POST-WAR INTERNATIONAL POLITICS GIVE GROUNDS FOR A CERTAIN OPTIMISM. HOWEVER, NEW AND SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS ARE BEING EXPERIENCED WHICH COULD UNLEASH A MAJOR CONFLICT AND WHICH DEMAND CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION, RETHINKING AND ADAPTABILITY. THE BUILDUP OF MILITARY FORCES; THE DEFENSE AND SECURITY REALITIES INFLUENCING THE FORMULATION OF NORWEGIAN POLICY HAVE NEITHER CHANGED NOR KEPT PACE WITH THE RISING EXPECTATIONS OF DETENTE.

NATO

THROUGH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO, NORWAY HAS BEEN ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SHAPING OF MBFR NEGOTIATING POSITIONS AND TO EXPLAIN SPECIAL NORWEGIAN INTERESTS AND PROBLEMS. NORWAY HAS PUT MAJOR EMPHASIS ON WORK IN THE EUROGROUP, IN PART

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TO AVOID THE DANGER OF THE EC COUNTRIES COORDINATING AND SHAPING THEIR VIEWS ON SUBJECTS WHICH SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AND DECIDED IN A NATO CONTEXT.

NORWEGIAN STRATEGIC SITUATION

NORWAY'S STRATEGIC SITUATION IS PRIMARILY DETERMINED BY HER GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION. IN A GIVEN

SITUATION, INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS COULD RESULT IN NORWAY BEING ATTACKED PURELY ON THE GROUNDS OF HER POSITION. BORDERING ON THE SOVIET UNION IMPLIES BORDERING ON ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL NAVAL BASES, THE NORTHERN FLEET IN THE MURMANSK-KOLA AREA. EVEN THOUGH THE EXPANSION OF THE SOVIET NAVY IN THE NORTH HAS A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE, IT IS NOT WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATION FOR THE NORWEGIAN SITUATION.

TASKS CONFRONTING THE ARMED FORCES

CREATION OF TRAWL-FREE ZONES, EXTENDED FISHING LIMITS, ECONOMIC ZONES AND INCREASED ACTIVITIES ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IMPOSE GREATER DEMANDS ON THE DEFENSE FORCES WITH REGARD TO: (A) THE CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE FUNCTION AND GENERAL EXERCISE OF NORWEGIAN SOVEREIGNTY, (B) DEFENSE OF NORTH SEA OIL AND GAS INSTALLATIONS AGAINST SABOTAGE AND GUERRILLA ACTION, AND (C) DEFENSE OF AN EXPANDED NORWEGIAN TERRITORY IN A WAR SITUATION.

INTEGRATED SECURITY POLICY

IN ORDER TO OBTAIN NORWEGIAN SECURITY POLICY OBJECTIVES, IT IS NECESSARY TO WORK IN SEVERAL SECTORS AS AN INTEGRATED WHOLE -- I.E., FOREIGN POLICY, DEFENSE POLICY, FISHERIES POLICY, COMMERCIAL POLICY, SHIPPING POLICY AND CONTENTAL SHELF AND RESOURCE POLICY.
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